

Northern Macomb County Citizen Opinion Survey

Washington Township 2002

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Community Partners and Steering Committee Members

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Bruce Township	Mark Falker
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2,261 Residents who completed the survey

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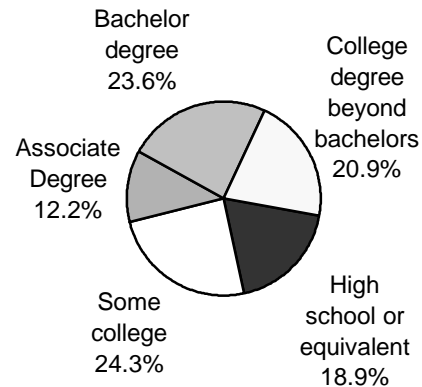
Community Profile

Of 674 surveys randomly distributed to Washington Township residents, 315 were returned usable. That was over a 46% response rate. See Table 1. Figure 1 illustrates Washington Township's percentage of respondents in relation to the Total Report responses.

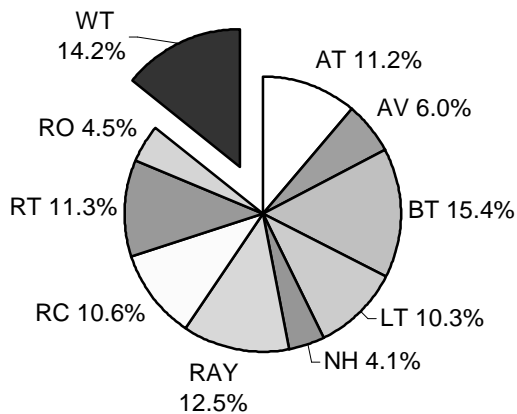
Respondent Demographics:

- 54% male, 46% female
- 52.4% were 40-59 years of age
- 81% had attended some college through a Post-Bachelor's degree of which nearly 21% had Post-Bachelor's degree. See Figure 2.
- Over 73% lived in 2-adult households, 12.8% were 1 adult; and 10.9% were 3 adult households
- Over 78% had household incomes over \$50,000, 5.6% under \$25,000
- Ethnic diversity included .3% Native American Indian, .3% Spanish origin, .7% multi-cultural and 98.8% white

WT Figure 2: Education of Respondents



WT Figure 1: % of Community Response of the Total



Community Demographics:

Population (1990) - 11,386

Population (2000) - 19,080

- Total Land (sq. miles) - 35.95 (23,008 acres)
- Total Water (sq. miles) - 0.86 (550.4 acres)
- Residential Acres* - 2,690
- Commercial Acres* - 188
- Agriculture Acres* - 6,717
- Vacant Acres* - 8,526
- Housing Units—7,317
- Density/square mile:
Population—530.7
Housing—203.5

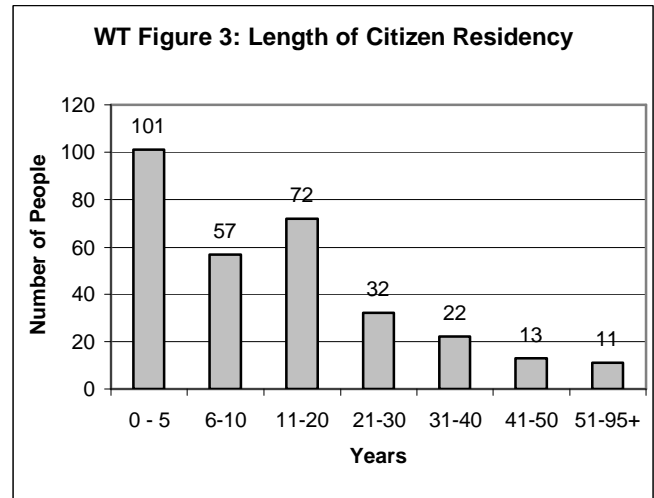
*1990 Census figures

WT Table 1: Survey Response Rate	Amount Originally Mailed	Total Responses	Returned defective	Valid Usable Surveys	% of Total Usable Responses
Washington Twp	674	323	8	315	46.7%
Total Responses	5420	2261	48	2213	40.8%

Of those that responded, 100% *Owned their home* with 9.7% living on *Rural lots of less than 5 acres*. Another 5.7% lived on *Large, non-farm lots of more than 5 acres*. 1.0% lived on *Operating farms*. 32.4% lived in *Subdivisions* and 13.7% lived in *Condominiums/townhouses*. This high number of survey participants living in a condominium or townhouse was unique to Washington Township. See Table 2.

WT Table 2: Type of Residence		No.	% of 299
21a	Condominium or townhouse	41	13.7%
21b	Apartment	0	0.0%
21c	Large rural lot, non-farm (more than 5 acres)	17	5.7%
21d	Rural lot (less than 5 acres)	29	9.7%
21e	Subdivision (less than 5 acres)	97	32.4%
21f	Single family home	111	37.1%
21g	Mobile home	1	0.3%
21h	Operating farm	3	1.0%
Total		299	100.0%

Survey participants indicated that over 51% had lived in Washington Township *10 years or less* with 32.8% of those *5 years or less*. Another 23.4% had lived in the township *11-20 years*. See Figure 3.



Section 1: Preferences and Concerns

Washington Township participants were asked what factors affected their choice of where to live. Of 15 possible choices based on a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 being very unimportant and 4 being very important, residents clearly identified 7 choices with a mean score of 3 or above denoting important. These were the same 7 as the Total Report responses (in parenthesis) just in a different order.

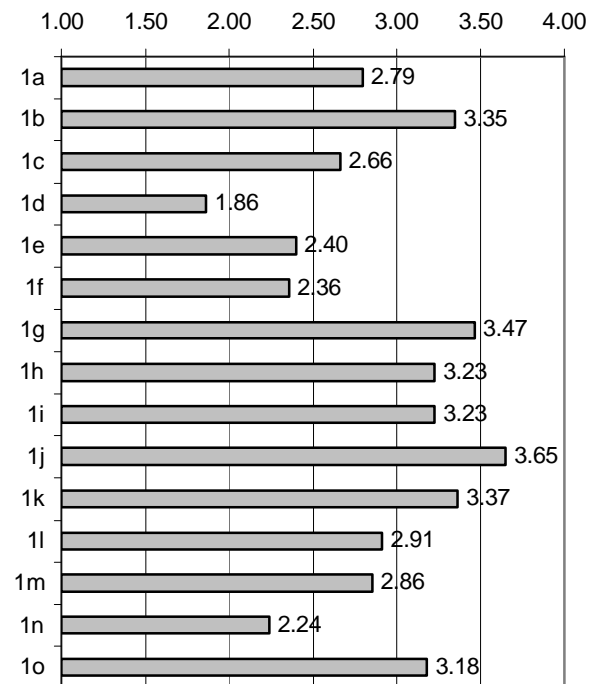
- Public Safety/Crime (1)
- Good Schools (3)
- Quiet Place in the Country (2)
- Affordable Home Price (5)
- Improved Roads (7)
- Health Care (6)
- Small Town Atmosphere (4)

Public safety/crime ranked as the #1 reason with the highest mean score as well as percentage of very important responses. It also ranked 1st in combined important/very important responses at 96.4%.

When looking at responses of important/very important by percentage, the order changed from the mean score results. *Public safety/crime* and *Good schools* ranked 1st and 2nd using mean score. By combining important/very important percentages, *Quiet place in the country* (91.0%) and *Affordable home price* (90.2%) moved to 2nd and 3rd ahead of *Good schools* (88.3%). See Table 3, Figure 4.

Health care, *Improved roads* and *Small town atmosphere* ranked 5th through 7th, respectively. *Health*

WT Figure 4: Factors in Where to Live



care and *Improved roads* tied with the same number of responses and mean score. However, *Health care* had a higher percentage of important responses so it ranked 5th ahead of *Improved roads*.

Small Town Atmosphere had a higher very important percentage than *Health Care* or *Improved Roads* but had a lower important percentage

	Total	V. Unimportant		Unimportant		Important		V. Important		Mean	Rank
		1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%		
1a Access to Shopping	311	17	5.5%	84	27.0%	156	50.2%	54	17.4%	2.79	10
1b Affordable home price	308	10	3.2%	20	6.5%	131	42.5%	147	47.7%	3.35	4
1c Close to Work	292	18	6.2%	102	34.9%	132	45.2%	40	13.7%	2.66	11
1d Commercial Airport Access	302	106	35.1%	144	47.7%	40	13.2%	12	4.0%	1.86	15
1e Cultural Opportunities	300	38	12.7%	125	41.7%	116	38.7%	21	7.0%	2.40	12
1f Family in Area/Grew Up Here	290	68	23.4%	97	33.4%	79	27.2%	46	15.9%	2.36	13
1g Good Schools	309	11	3.6%	25	8.1%	82	26.5%	191	61.8%	3.47	2
1h Health Care	310	8	2.6%	27	8.7%	162	52.3%	113	36.5%	3.23	6
1i Improved Roads	310	10	3.2%	32	10.3%	145	46.8%	123	39.7%	3.23	5
1j Public Safety/Crime	311	6	1.9%	5	1.6%	81	26.0%	219	70.4%	3.65	1
1k Quiet Place in the Country	309	6	1.9%	22	7.1%	134	43.4%	147	47.6%	3.37	3
1l Recreational Opportunities	306	13	4.2%	63	20.6%	168	54.9%	62	20.3%	2.91	8
1m Sewage/Water Treatment	304	34	11.2%	74	24.3%	98	32.2%	98	32.2%	2.86	9
1n Site Near or With Water Access	299	64	21.4%	133	44.5%	68	22.7%	34	11.4%	2.24	14
1o Small Town Atmosphere	302	10	3.3%	48	15.9%	122	40.4%	122	40.4%	3.18	7

Using a 1 (very unimportant) to 4 (very important) scale, residents were asked to identify concerns in the community today. The 4 items chosen as the top concerns with a mean score of 3 or higher by Washington Township respondents were:

- Traffic congestion (2)
- Rapid residential growth (3)
- Loss of open space (1)
- Rapid business and/or commercial growth (5)

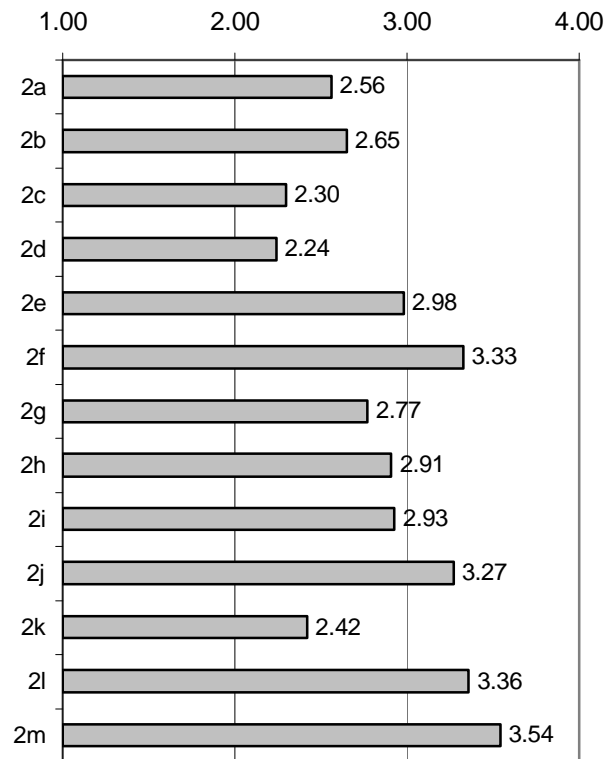
The numbers in parenthesis indicate rank of the Total Report.

Traffic congestion was the #1 concern of respondents. While it had the smallest important concern percentage of the top four above, it was over 10% higher in very important responses. In combined important/very important percentage at (91.9%), *Traffic congestion* was over 6% higher than the second ranked item, *Rapid residential growth* at 84.4%.

Loss of open space was ranked third with 86.3%. The mean score and rank were lower than *Rapid residential growth* because it had a lower percentage of very concerned responses. In combined important/very important percentage, it was higher than the 2nd ranked item.

The 4th ranked item, *Rapid business/commercial growth*, had 49.7% very important and 30.8% important response. Washington Township had the highest combined percentage for this factor than any other community in the survey. See Table 4, Figure 5.

WT Figure 5: Community Concerns



WT Table 4 : Community Concerns		Total	V. Unimportant		Unimportant		Important		V. Important		Mean	Rank
			1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%		
2a	Deterioration of downtown areas	302	50	16.6%	79	26.2%	127	42.1%	46	15.2%	2.56	10
2b	Fragmentation of land by low density development	273	40	14.7%	72	26.4%	105	38.5%	56	20.5%	2.65	9
2c	Lack of affordable housing	297	67	22.6%	107	36.0%	91	30.6%	32	10.8%	2.30	12
2d	Lack of park and recreational facilities	309	76	24.6%	118	38.2%	80	25.9%	35	11.3%	2.24	13
2e	Loss of family farms	301	39	13.0%	49	16.3%	92	30.6%	121	40.2%	2.98	5
2f	Loss of open space	306	17	5.6%	25	8.2%	105	34.3%	159	52.0%	3.33	3
2g	Loss of outdoor recreation areas	302	34	11.3%	81	26.8%	107	35.4%	80	26.5%	2.77	8
2h	Loss of sense of community	303	27	8.9%	65	21.5%	120	39.6%	91	30.0%	2.91	7
2i	Loss of wetlands	300	34	11.3%	62	20.7%	96	32.0%	108	36.0%	2.93	6
2j	Rapid business and/or commercial growth	308	10	3.2%	50	16.2%	95	30.8%	153	49.7%	3.27	4
2k	Time spent commuting to work	291	59	20.3%	98	33.7%	87	29.9%	47	16.2%	2.42	11
2l	Rapid residential growth	308	10	3.2%	38	12.3%	92	29.9%	168	54.5%	3.36	2
2m	Traffic congestion	308	7	2.3%	18	5.8%	84	27.3%	199	64.6%	3.54	1

Section 2: Perceptions Regarding Community Growth

When asked their views about past and future growth, Washington Township residents had similar views as the Total Report response - except the mean score and percentages were higher.

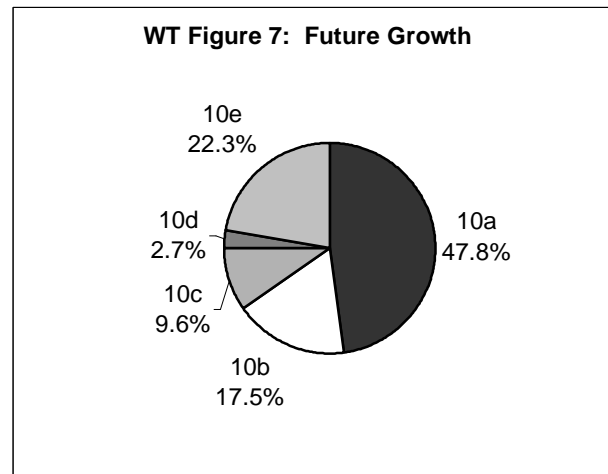
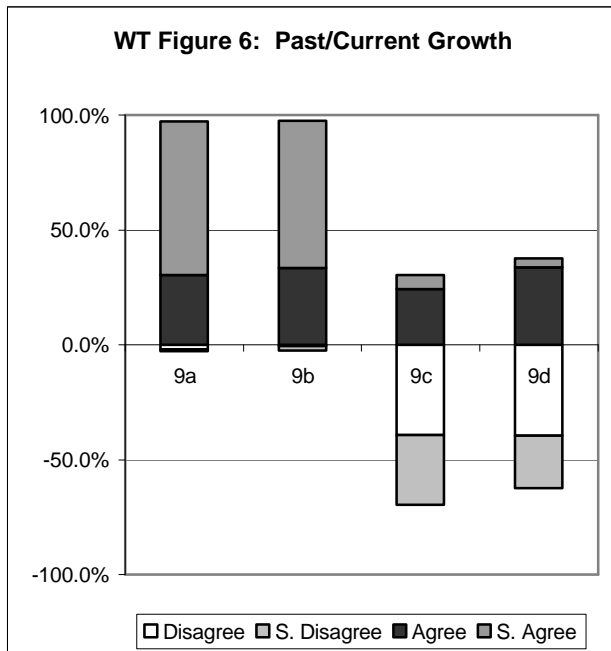
On a 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree) scale, 97.3% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that *There had been significant growth pressure during the past 5 years*. 97.4% agreed/strongly agreed that *Growth pressure in my community would increase significantly in the next 5 years*. Washington Township had the highest agree/strongly agree percentage of all 10 communities on this item.

When asked if *There had been adequate restrictions on development in the community during the last 5 years*, only 30.5% agreed/strongly agreed that there had been adequate restrictions while 69.4%

disagreed/strongly disagreed. Finally, when asked if *For the past 5 years development in the community had been well planned*, the agree and disagree responses were similar at 34% and 39.4%, respectively. Where the significant difference occurred was in the strongly agree/strongly disagree responses. Over 5 times as many people strongly disagreed as strongly agreed with the statement. See Table 5, Figure 6.

Close to half of the survey participants, 47.6%, would *Encourage development provided that adequate utilities, roads, schools, fire and police services were existing or available*. 22.3% felt *The community should attempt to stop all new development* and 17.5% were *Satisfied with the current rate of growth of our community*.

While 69.4% felt there had not been adequate restrictions on growth during the last 5 years and 62.2% disagree that development had been well planned, nearly one-half would support new growth if adequate infrastructure (planning) was in place. See Table 6, Figure 7.



WT Table 5: Past/Current Growth		Disagree		Agree	
		-1	-2	+3	+4
9a	There has been significant growth pressure in my community during the past five years	2 .7%	6 2.0%	91 30.6%	198 66.7%
9b	Growth pressure in my community will increase significantly in the next five years	6 2.0%	2 .7%	102 33.6%	194 63.8%
9c	There have been adequate restrictions on development in my community during the last 5 years.	80 30.2%	104 39.2%	65 24.5%	16 6.0%
9d	For the past five years development in the community has been well planned	59 22.8%	102 39.4%	88 34.0%	10 3.8%

WT Table 6: Future Growth		No.	% of 291	Rank
10a	I encourage development provided that adequate utilities, roads, schools, fire and police services, etc. are existing or available.	139	47.8%	1
10b	I am satisfied with the current rate of growth of our community.	51	17.5%	3
10c	I believe that growth should take its own course with as little government interference as possible.	28	9.6%	4
10d	I would like to see the community actively encourage growth.	8	2.7%	5
10e	The community should attempt to stop all new development.	65	22.3%	2

Washington Township responses on the issue of roads and road system needs had 3 favorable items based on a 1 (no need) to 4 (great need) scale. These 3 were to *Improve existing roads*, *Widen existing roads* and *Encourage the expansion of some roads to highways*. See Table 7, Figure 8.

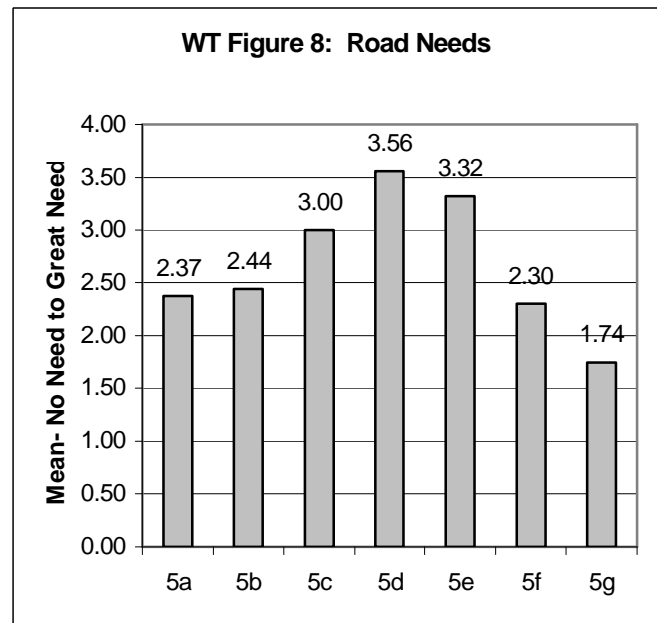
Improve existing roads ranked 1st with a 61.7% great need response. *Widen existing roads* was 2nd with 48.8% and *Encourage the expansion of some roads to highways* had 37.5%. All communities ranked *Improve existing roads* and *Widen existing roads* as a need with a mean score of 3 or above.

Washington Township was 1 of 5 communities that indicated some need for the *Expansion of public bus or transit system*. Over 40% indicated a need or great need for additional public transportation.

The subject of roads also generated a number of written comments. Several themes came out of these comments:

- Pave dirt roads
- M-53 expansion to I-69
- Maintain existing roads/terrible shape

The *Expansion of some roads to Highways*, the third ranked item, could be in relation to the written comments that encouraged the expansion of M-53 to I-69. See Washington Township comments in the appendix for a complete listing.



WT Table 7: Road Needs		Total	No Need		Low Need		Need		Great Need		Mean	Rank
			1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%		
5a	Build freeways	293	84	28.7%	75	25.6%	75	25.6%	59	20.1%	2.37	5
5b	Build new roads	293	70	23.9%	86	29.4%	76	25.9%	61	20.8%	2.44	4
5c	Encourage the expansion of some roads to highways (such as M-59)	299	32	10.7%	48	16.1%	107	35.8%	112	37.5%	3.00	3
5d	Improve existing roads	308	2	0.6%	14	4.5%	102	33.1%	190	61.7%	3.56	1
5e	Widen existing roads	301	9	3.0%	33	11.0%	112	37.2%	147	48.8%	3.32	2
5f	Expand public bus or transit system	289	82	28.4%	89	30.8%	67	23.2%	51	17.6%	2.30	6
5g	Airport expansion	274	144	52.6%	78	28.5%	30	10.9%	22	8.0%	1.74	7

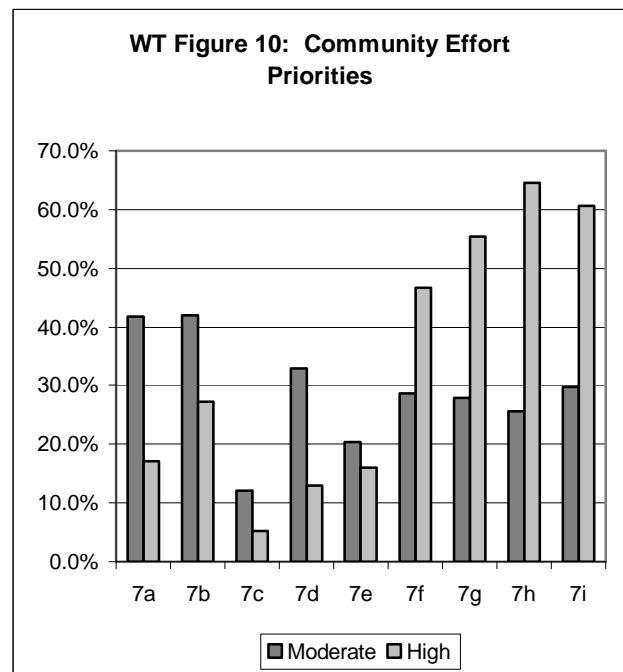
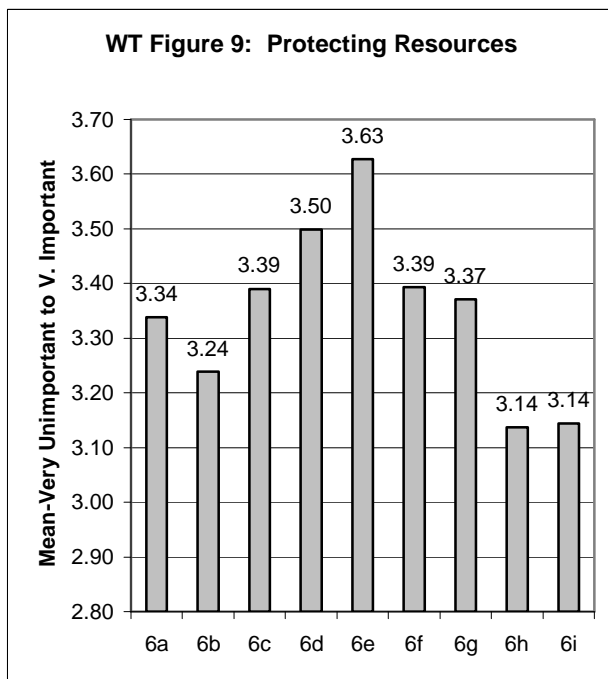
Section 3: Environment and Natural Resources Protection

When asked to identify community resources that should be protected from fragmentation, this question received all “positive” responses based on a 1 (very unimportant) to 4 (very important) scale. All items were ranked important to protect. See Table 8, Figure 9.

Lake and stream water quality ranked first both in mean score and very important responses with 72.3%. It also had the lowest important percentage of the top 5 items. The 2nd ranked item, *Groundwater resources*, had the same rank whether using mean score or combined important/very important responses. *Scenic roads* ranked 3rd with over 88% combined important/very important responses.

Participants then ranked items that should be a priority in the community on a 1 (no priority) to 4 (high priority) scale. 4 of the 9 choices received favorable responses. *Protecting Woodlands*, *Protecting land along river ways*, *Protecting farmland from development* and *Preserving wetlands and marshes* were efforts that should be given priority. The remaining 5 items emphasized building or expanding and were not ranked as efforts to get priority. It appeared that any item listed as building or expanding was interpreted as more development and thus ranked poorly with residents. See Table 9, Figure 10.

None of the items identified as *priority* for the community were in the top 3 community resources to *protect*.



WT Table 8: Protecting Resources		Total	V. Unimportant		Unimportant		Important		V. Important		Mean	Rank
			1	% 1	2	% 2	3	% 3	4	% 4		
6a	Rural character	298	17	5.7%	21	7.0%	104	34.9%	156	52.3%	3.34	6
6b	Farmland	298	17	5.7%	38	12.8%	100	33.6%	143	48.0%	3.24	7
6c	Woodlots	300	15	5.0%	21	7.0%	96	32.0%	168	56.0%	3.39	4
6d	Ground water resources	297	12	4.0%	12	4.0%	89	30.0%	184	62.0%	3.50	2
6e	Lake/stream water quality	300	12	4.0%	5	1.7%	66	22.0%	217	72.3%	3.63	1
6f	Scenic views	292	13	4.5%	21	7.2%	96	32.9%	162	55.5%	3.39	3
6g	Wildlife and wetland habitat	294	17	5.8%	21	7.1%	92	31.3%	164	55.8%	3.37	5
6h	Existing downtown area	299	18	6.0%	34	11.4%	136	45.5%	111	37.1%	3.14	9
6i	Rec. sites/area	293	21	7.2%	33	11.3%	122	41.6%	117	39.9%	3.14	8

WT Table 9: Community Effort Priorities		Total	No		Low		Moderate		High		Mean	Rank
			1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%		
7a	Building more parks for sporting activities and family outings	299	35	11.7%	88	29.4%	125	41.8%	51	17.1%	2.64	6
7b	Building more hiking and biking trails	309	31	10.0%	64	20.7%	130	42.1%	84	27.2%	2.86	5
7c	Building public golf courses	307	136	44.3%	118	38.4%	37	12.1%	16	5.2%	1.78	9
7d	Expanding existing state parks	301	41	13.6%	122	40.5%	99	32.9%	39	13.0%	2.45	7
7e	Expanding public hunting and fishing opportunities	300	65	21.7%	126	42.0%	61	20.3%	48	16.0%	2.31	8
7f	Preserving wetlands and marshes	304	20	6.6%	55	18.1%	87	28.6%	142	46.7%	3.15	4
7g	Protecting farmland from development	305	14	4.6%	37	12.1%	85	27.9%	169	55.4%	3.34	3
7h	Protecting wood lands	305	8	2.6%	22	7.2%	78	25.6%	197	64.6%	3.52	1
7i	Protecting land along river ways	300	5	1.7%	24	8.0%	89	29.7%	182	60.7%	3.49	2

Respondents were asked to identify barriers to meeting land use challenges. They were asked to check all that applied of 8 items. Respondents checked an average of 3.4 items on the list. Township participants clearly identified *Pressure from developers* as the #1 barrier. Of the 315 respondents, nearly 72% checked this item. See Table 10, Figure 11.

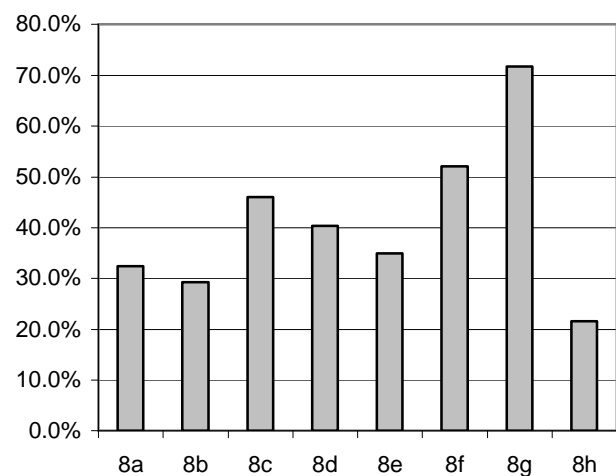
Poor public understanding of land use issues ranked 2nd with 52%. Only 29% felt that a *Lack of adequate land use regulations* was a barrier to land use challenges. This data differs from Section 2 where respondents disagreed (69.4%) that there had been adequate restrictions on growth.

Written comments regarding land use development focused on 3 themes:

- Developers have money to get what they want
- Stop all new development
- Past planning has been inadequate/need to stick to plan

The written comments about developers were consistent with the #1 barrier to land use being *Pressure from developers* and were generally negative. See Washington Township comments in the appendix for a complete list.

WT Figure 11: Barriers to Effective Land Use



WT Table 10: Barriers to Effective Land Use		No.	% of 315	Rank
8a	Lack of adequate enforcement of regulations	102	32.4%	6
8b	Lack of adequate land use regulations	92	29.2%	7
8c	Lack of adequate planning	145	46.0%	3
8d	Lack of planning and zoning coordination with adjoining communities	127	40.3%	4
8e	Poor public support for difficult land use decisions	110	34.9%	5
8f	Poor public understanding of land use issues	164	52.1%	2
8g	Pressure from developers	226	71.7%	1
8h	Too much state and federal regulation	68	21.6%	8

Section 4: Open Space, Natural Areas and Farmland Preservation

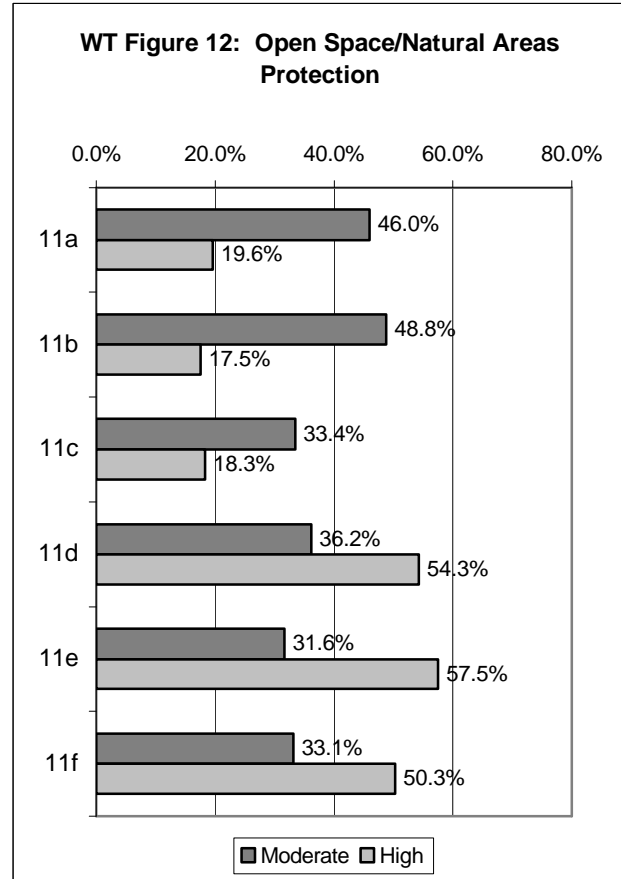
Residents were asked to rank in importance on a 1 to 4 scale the reasons to protect open space and natural areas. The top 3 reasons to protect open space and natural areas by mean score and combined important/very important percentage were to:

- Preserve rural character of the community
- Maintain environmental benefits of open space
- Slow down and control growth

To preserve rural character and *To maintain environmental benefits of open space* were close both in mean score, 3.43 to 3.42 and combined percentages with 89.1% (*To preserve rural character*) and 90.5% (*To maintain environmental benefits...*), respectively. See Table 11, Figure 12.

This strong support for environmental protection related back to *Section 3* where all of the natural resources features were ranked high to protect.

Looking at resident's responses on protection of environmental areas, there is a sense that open space and natural areas were valued in and of themselves. These areas also are part of the community's definition of its rural, small town character that had been previously identified as important in why they lived in the township.



WT Table 11: Open Space/ Natural Areas Protection		Total	Very Unimportant		Unimportant		Important		V. Important		Mean	Rank
			1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%		
11a	To provide more park space for family outings and sporting activities	291	30	10.3%	70	24.1%	134	46.0%	57	19.6%	2.75	4
11b	To expand public access for recreational opportunities	291	32	11.0%	66	22.7%	142	48.8%	51	17.5%	2.73	5
11c	To maintain hunting and fishing opportunities	290	45	15.5%	95	32.8%	97	33.4%	53	18.3%	2.54	6
11d	To maintain environmental benefits of open space (watershed protection, natural areas, wildlife habitat)	293	9	3.1%	19	6.5%	106	36.2%	159	54.3%	3.42	2
11e	To preserve the rural character of the community	301	12	4.0%	21	7.0%	95	31.6%	173	57.5%	3.43	1
11f	To slow down and control development	296	22	7.4%	27	9.1%	98	33.1%	149	50.3%	3.26	3

In looking at possible options to protect farmland, residents clearly identified the options they would support. On a 1 (no support) to 3 (support) scale, there were 3 options ranked above 2, indicating some support or support. The 3 top options were:

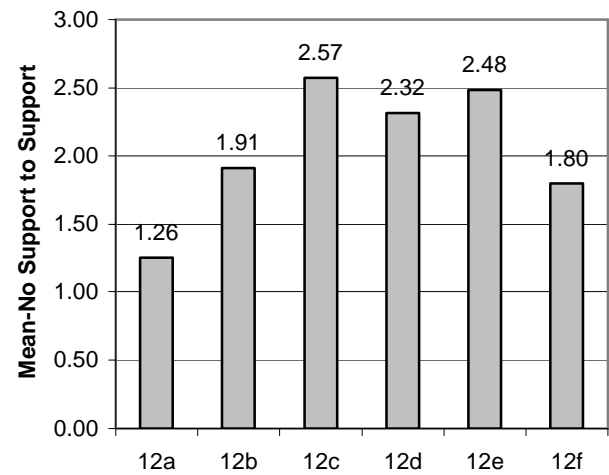
- Limit the number of new homes in rural areas through stricter land use and zoning, 90.3%
- Provide reduced property taxes to farmers who voluntarily agree not to develop their land, 83.9%
- Pay farmers who voluntarily agree to permanently protect farmland from future development through a conservation easement, 80.1%

There was a 15% difference between the 3rd and 4th ranked options. *Direct or encourage more development in/around existing cities/villages* had 65% in combined some support/support. See Table 12, Figure 13.

Over 80% of survey respondents indicated no support for the option to *Allow developers to build more homes than zoning currently allows [density bonus] in exchange for financially supporting farmland preservation programs*.

As with the Total Report responses, it's difficult to know whether participants did not want increased density as a way to control growth or if they objected to any zoning variance-even in exchange for farm-

WT Figure 13: Farmland Preservation Options



land preservation.

These results differed from previous data. *Section 1* identified *Loss of farmland* as 1 of the 5 community concerns.

In *Section 3* survey respondents ranked *Protecting farmland* 7th of 9 community resources to protect in *Section 3* and 3rd of 9 as a priority that the community should address.

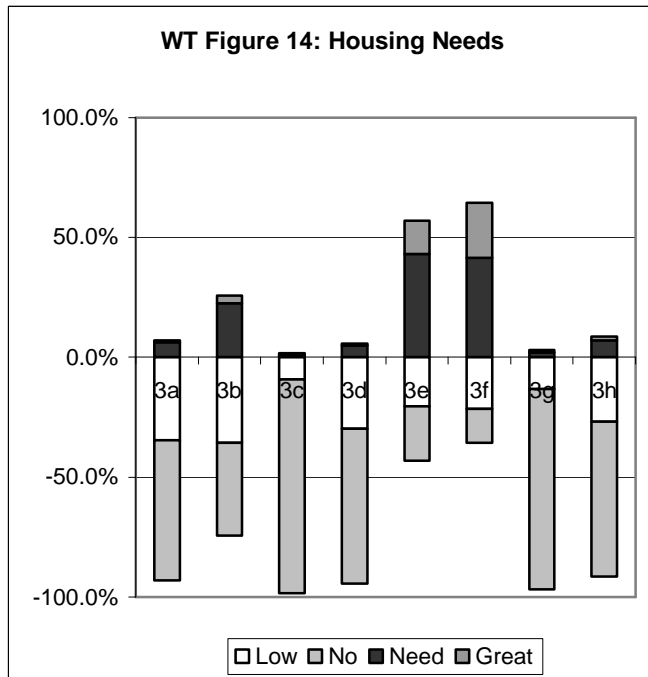
WT Table 12: Farmland Preservation Options

		Total	No Support		Some Support		Support		Mean	Rank
			1	%	2	%	3	%		
12a	Allow developers to build more homes than zoning currently allows in exchange for financially supporting farmland preservation programs	266	213	80.1%	38	14.3%	15	5.6%	1.26	6
12b	Direct or encourage more development in and around existing cities and/or villages	269	94	35.0%	105	39.0%	70	26.0%	1.91	4
12c	Limit the number of new homes in rural areas through stricter land use and zoning regulations	289	28	9.7%	67	23.2%	194	67.1%	2.57	1
12d	Pay farmers who voluntarily agree to permanently protect farmland from future development through a conservation easement	272	54	19.9%	78	28.7%	140	51.5%	2.32	3
12e	Provide reduced property taxes to farmers who voluntarily agree to not develop their land	292	47	16.1%	57	19.5%	188	64.4%	2.48	2
12f	I would support a modest fee or tax if it could really help preserve farmland	272	123	45.2%	81	29.8%	68	25.0%	1.80	5

Section 5: Housing

Information on housing needs and price range was very similar among all 10 communities. The top 2 choices were determined using a 1 (no need) to 4 (great need) scale for 8 choices. *Single family homes* and *Retirement housing* ranked first and second with 22.9% and 13.9% great need, respectively. Conversely, 35.6% to 43% saw no or low need for either option.

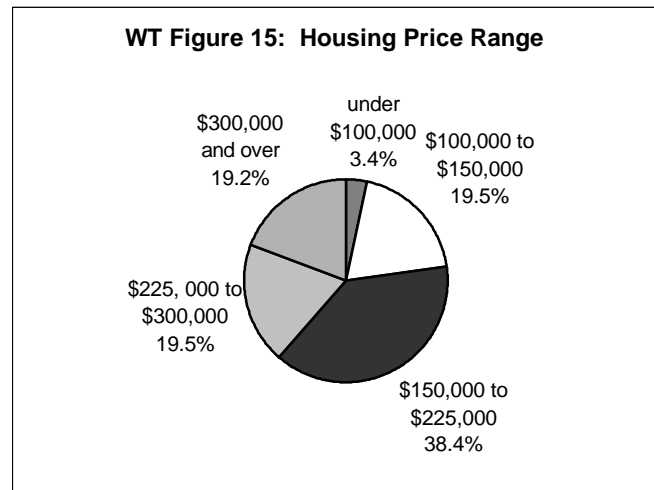
These results compared similarly to the Total Report responses. It also reconfirmed that residents were concerned about rapid residential growth. This was identified in *Section 1* where it was the 2nd highest concern in Washington Township. However, if additional housing occurs, they prefer *Single family homes* or *Retirement housing*. See Table 13, Figure 14.



The response to what range of housing was needed based on cost was somewhat unique. Homes in the \$150,000-225,000 range were the 1st choice among survey participants. See Table 14, Figure 15.

The next choice was interesting in that 2 price ranges tied for 2nd. The \$100,000-150,000 and \$225,000-300,000 price ranges were each chosen by 19.5%.

This correlated to type of housing wanted in the community. The lower price range would offer some affordable 1st homes and retirement housing. The higher cost offered homes with more amenities for the 40-59 years old residents.



	N	% of 297	Rank
4a under \$100,000	10	3.4%	4
4b \$100,000 to \$150,000	58	19.5%	2
4c \$150,000 to \$225,000	114	38.4%	1
4d \$225,000 to \$300,000	58	19.5%	2
4e \$300,000 and over	57	19.2%	3
Total	297	100.0%	

	Total	No		Low		Need		Great		Mean	Rank
		(-)1	%of 1	(-)2	%of 2	(+)3	%of 3	(+)4	%of 4		
3a Apartments	293	171	58.4%	101	34.5%	19	6.5%	2	0.7%	1.49	4
3b Condominiums	298	115	38.6%	106	35.6%	67	22.5%	10	3.4%	1.91	3
3c Mobile Home Parks	302	269	89.1%	28	9.3%	2	0.7%	3	1.0%	1.14	8
3d Rental Homes	291	187	64.3%	87	29.9%	15	5.2%	2	0.7%	1.42	6
3e Retirement Housing	302	68	22.5%	62	20.5%	130	43.0%	42	13.9%	2.48	2
3f Single Family	297	42	14.1%	64	21.5%	123	41.4%	68	22.9%	2.73	1
3g Single/Double wide mobile homes on private lots	301	251	83.4%	40	13.3%	6	2.0%	4	1.3%	1.21	7
3h Manufactured Homes	294	189	64.3%	79	26.9%	21	7.1%	5	1.7%	1.46	5

Section 6: Efforts for Economic Development

Respondents were asked to prioritize the level of time and money that public officials should direct toward attracting 7 economic activities. Using a 1 (no effort) to 4 (high effort) scale, no activities ranked in the moderate or high effort range. *Farming* was the #1 ranked activity with a mean score of 2.91. The combined moderate/high effort percentage was 69.4%.

Agriculture product processing, the 2nd ranked activity, had just over 50% combined moderate/high effort responses. *Commercial/retail business* and *Light manufacturing* ranked 3rd and 4th, respectively. See Table 15, Figure 16.

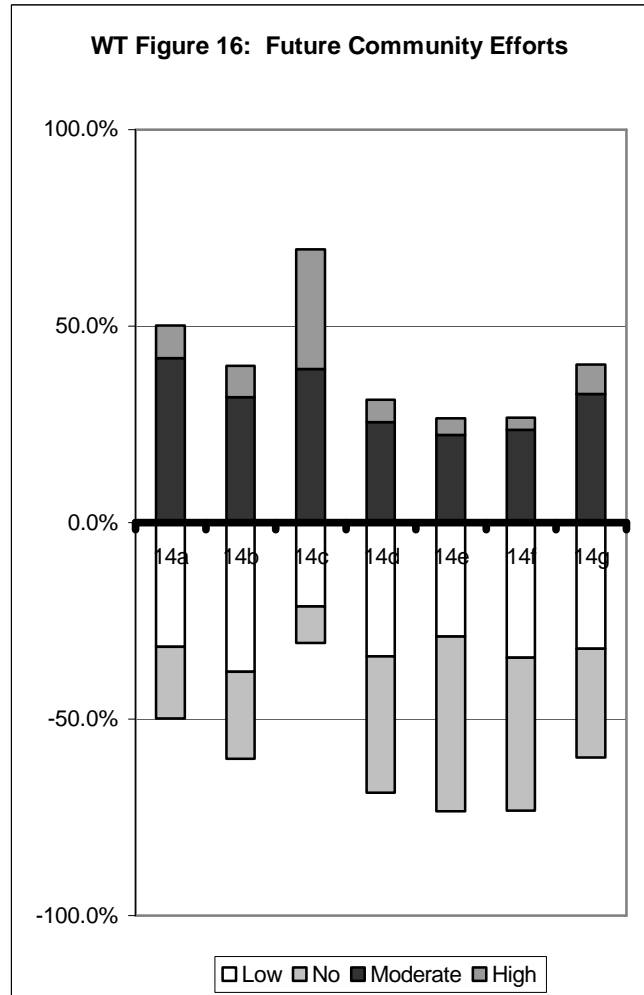
New housing development ranked last with 73.5% indicating no/low effort toward attracting new homes. This reconfirmed results in *Section 5* where any type of housing development received at least 35% no/low effort responses.

It is interesting to note that 3 of the 4 top choices were activities that required *less* money in services *from* the community than they paid in taxes *to* the community.

NOTE: The data and percentages for the *New home development* may be lower than normal due to a printing error on the survey. It may have confused some respondents and they simply did not answer that item on the survey.

A few comments indicated some need for downtown development. It was not clear if they meant downtown area for Washington Township or more downtown development in the Village of Romeo.

See Washington Township comments in the appendix for a complete list.



		Total	No		Low		Moderate		High		Mean	Rank
			1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%		
14a	Agriculture product processing	263	48	18.3%	83	31.6%	110	41.8%	22	8.4%	2.40	2
14b	Commercial/retail business	289	64	22.1%	110	38.1%	92	31.8%	23	8.0%	2.26	3
14c	Farming	285	26	9.1%	61	21.4%	111	38.9%	87	30.5%	2.91	1
14d	Light manufacturing	282	98	34.8%	96	34.0%	72	25.5%	16	5.7%	2.02	5
14e	New housing development (subdivision)	166	74	44.6%	48	28.9%	37	22.3%	7	4.2%	1.86	7
14f	Resort and related business	285	111	38.9%	98	34.4%	67	23.5%	9	3.2%	1.91	6
14g	Tourism	284	79	27.8%	91	32.0%	93	32.7%	21	7.4%	2.20	4

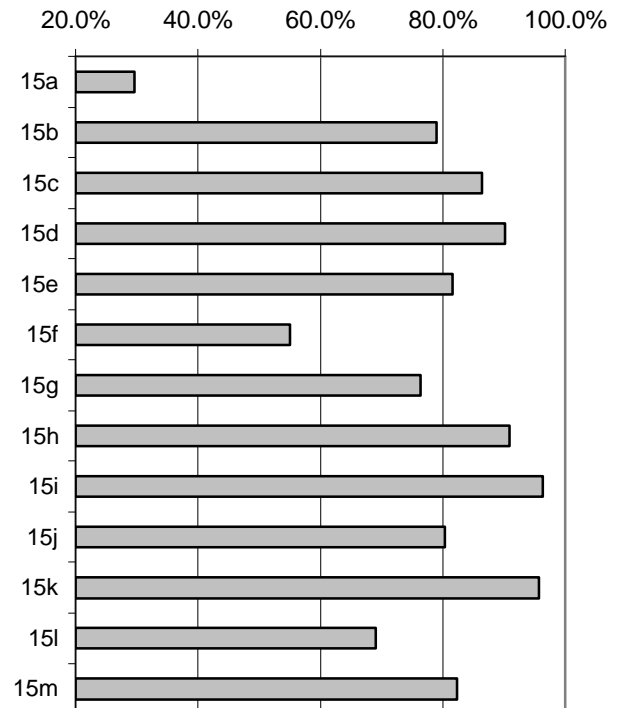
Common themes in the responses from Washington Township were to protect the rural character and environmental resources, such as lake and stream water quality, open space, groundwater and farmland. When asked what items public finances should be used for, some of these were reflected in the responses but not as a top choice.

On a 1 (don't support) to 3 (strongly support) scale, residents identified items they would support regarding spending of public finances. 10 of 13 items ranked support or strong support. Only 2, however, ranked in the strong support range.

Road repair/maintenance was 1st in both mean score and percentages. In support/strong support responses, it received 96.3%. *Emergency services* was 2nd with a combined 95.7%. *Recycling* and *Natural areas/Open space preservation* were close at 90.9% and 90.1%, respectively. See Table 16, Figure 17.

Question 15 elicited some additional comments. They all had the same theme: environmental protection of trees, nature areas, wetlands, orchards. See Washington Township comments in the appendix for the complete list.

WT Figure 17: Future Funding Priorities



WT Table 16: Future Funding Priorities		Total	Don't		Support		S. Support		Mean	Rank	2&3 Total
			1	%	2	%	3	%			
15a	Business and land development services	260	183	70.4%	70	26.9%	7	2.7%	1.32	13	29.6%
15b	Farmland preservation program for the community	281	59	21.0%	137	48.8%	85	30.2%	2.09	9	79.0%
15c	Land use planning and zoning	280	38	13.6%	150	53.6%	92	32.9%	2.19	5	86.4%
15d	Natural areas/open space preservation program	294	29	9.9%	145	49.3%	120	40.8%	2.31	4	90.1%
15e	Public parks	293	54	18.4%	151	51.5%	88	30.0%	2.12	8	81.6%
15f	Public transportation with small buses	291	131	45.0%	131	45.0%	29	10.0%	1.65	12	55.0%
15g	Purchase of additional land as nature preserve(s)	287	68	23.7%	133	46.3%	86	30.0%	2.06	10	76.3%
15h	Recycling	298	27	9.1%	146	49.0%	125	41.9%	2.33	3	90.9%
15i	Road repair and maintenance	300	11	3.7%	100	33.3%	189	63.0%	2.59	1	96.3%
15j	Trails for hiking, biking	295	58	19.7%	129	43.7%	108	36.6%	2.17	6	80.3%
15k	Emergency services such as fire and police protection	304	13	4.3%	110	36.2%	181	59.5%	2.55	2	95.7%
15l	Expansion of sewer and water for future development	287	89	31.0%	129	44.9%	69	24.0%	1.93	11	69.0%
15m	Upgrading and expanding school facilities	299	53	17.7%	150	50.2%	96	32.1%	2.14	7	82.3%

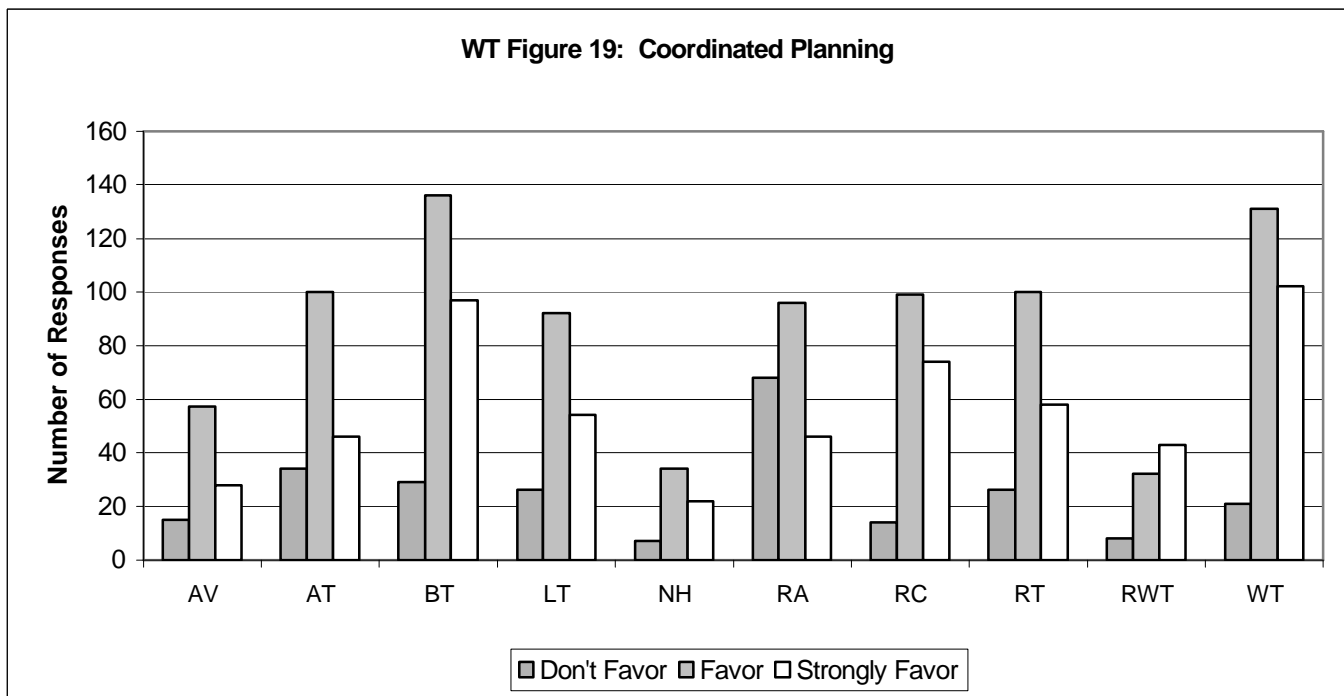
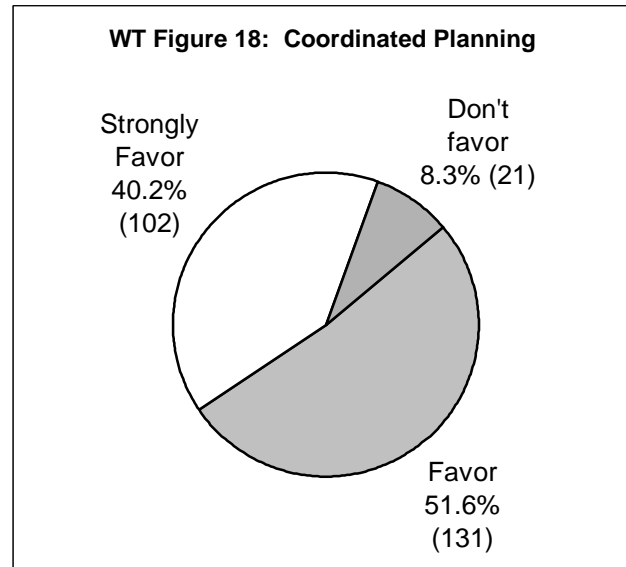
Section 7: Coordinated Planning

If any conclusion can be drawn from this survey, it is that the participating communities, while unique in some ways, have more similarities than differences. It appeared that each community was on the same development continuum with each at a different point on the continuum.

Washington Township residents recognized that many issues were multi-jurisdictional because they crossed municipal borders, such as water resources, roads and development impacts. It would follow that by working together as a unit the northern communities would have much more success in realizing their common goals. It seemed the residents in each community think so, too.

Using a 1 (don't favor) to 3 (strongly favor) scale, survey participants were asked if they favored *Coordinated Planning with adjacent communities*. Of those who had an opinion, 51.6% favored and 40.2% strongly favored *Coordinated planning* efforts. Nearly 5 times more residents strongly favored coordinated planning than those that didn't favor it. Washington Township responses were higher than the Total Report responses and second highest of all communities. See Figure 18

Figure 19 illustrates Washington Township's participant responses on *Coordinated Planning* in relation to each community's responses.



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If you have questions about this report please ask for
Marilyn Rudzinski, Director or Terry Gibb, Natural Resources Agent

Additional information from other municipalities can be
found at our website www.msue.msu.edu/macomb

Northern Macomb County Citizen Opinion Survey—Washington Township

The area has a variety of roads and road systems. In your opinion does the local, county, state and/or federal government need to:

Freeways: Just fix right the first time. Hold contractor liable 25 years. M 53 needs 5 lanes!!! Public transit: I don't consider ours one. Airport exp: done.

Need to improve Romeo Airport. Need to pave Mound - Campground; widen "bypass" M-53.

Our roads are awful & we have no alternate routes. We need common sense & foresight in this area. Pave & make Mound go thru to M59 (work with other communities). Maintain the ones we have. Expand M53 Bypass to I69. Our unpaved roads never have been graded

Paving 25 Mile on North.

This is what I think the township thinks, these are not my opinion.

A. Van Dyke Corridor

Pave gravel roads

E/W rds between communities

Traffic signal jewel 26/27

Pave more dirt roads

Pave all roads

Expressway 53

Better maintenance of dirt roads

Pave unpaved roads

Improve traffic signals instead of stop signs

Pave or increase grading of non paved roads

Reduce truck weights

Improve drainage along dirt roads so they're not as affected by rains.

Pave dirt roads, quality road improvements

M-53-N-28 mi to I69

Post speed limit on gravel roads where residential is taking over. Need 4 way stop at 31 & Campground before someone gets killed

Pave the roads in 2002

Pave Campground & 31 Mile

M-53 needs widening in 2 or 3 yrs

Improve East/West Roads

No more housing development! None!

Extra stars by #4 for improving roads

Better maintenance of all existing roads/streets

Acquire land adjacent to Romeo airport/expand

Improve subdivision roads

Pave gravel roads

More maintenance

Pave all dirt roads & repair all closed bridges

Cut down on building, this will help take care of the roads we have

Pave more dirt roads, eg. 30, 31, 34 Mile Rd. Bike paths.

Pave dirt roads

What do you believe are the barriers, if any, to meeting land use challenges in your community?

Not aggressive enough fines for damage to wetlands etc. Anyone to destroy such places minimum \$1,000,000 fine and one year jail!
High Taxes forcing families to sell large parcels, because they can't afford to keep them. Developers offer so much.
Looks are important. Look at new Washington library--"too modern". Looks like a storage complex. The Orchard Chrysler dealer has a better look! Plant more trees as they tear down.
We need developers. You can't say no to everyone-we need shopping, theaters, restaurants, doctors, hospitals. We don't need more mobile-home parks. This area is growing fast. Get involved in planning the development.
Greed
Lack of township board desire, to keep rural atmosphere.
Developers can outspend a community in the courts
When can we get city water and sewers? Our streets are in very bad shape.
Let people make a living and progress good for all
I think "we the people" should be able to have direct contact with the judges who decide cases involving developers v. townships.
I don't know
Poor long range planning, Washington Pointe Estates - poor use of land-too many houses for size of land
Do not have enough knowledge in these areas to answer
Government is a waste and only takes what people own
Downtown hodge-podge. Set a style and stick with it.
Fighting off developers
City fathers stick to the master plan and not cave into people or org. with money thru zoning variances
Local government desire for higher tax revenues
Developers have bought and paid for Macomb County Officials
Need water & not wells!
Higher priority to rails to trails
Not sure.
Trees destroyed
Developer litigation

Northern Macomb County Citizen Opinion Survey—Washington Township

Public officials need to know your concerns about the economic future of your area. Indicate the level of effort (time and money) you feel should be directed towards attracting the following activities to your community.

Re "C" Farming: support locals. Rebuild Romeo & Washington "towns" like historic sites and farms.
Sub divisions
Health care facilities and recreation facilities.
Large acres parcels, (10 plus)
Roads & city water
Outdoor nature areas
Improve roads,image and beautification ex: Big Beaver near Somerset mall
Washington Twp. Needs a retail downtown development
Do what ever it takes to keep the orchards.
Improve downtown Romeo shopping choices.
We already have enough subdivision activity!
We've lived here for about 10 yrs. The reason we moved here was for the smaller town/country atmosphere. Unfortunately all that is quickly disappearing. I realize it all boils down to money.
Golf courses
No more taxes
Expand local airport for future travel/ business support

As the community continues to grow and develop, additional public services will be required. Please indicate the extent to which you support public financing to pay for any of the following:

Senior discount taxes. Over 70 no taxes. Maintain lot sizes. No more trailer parks!!
#15-n=just spent fortune on new taxes for schools
City water
Roads in my neighborhood are terrible.
Are you kidding about expanding sewers and water for future development
Construction contractors should be held responsible for road repair and maintenance
Support 2 small high schools
For developers let them pay
Waste disposal
Prefer private companies as opposed to public.
Dog park
Build just basic schools, not million dollar schools